



# Most Expensive Apple

Adapted from “Fruit of Failure” series by Rod Loy

As a kid, there were a couple of things my parents said that drove me nuts. It never failed. We would be walking through the store, and I would see an awesome toy and ask my parents to buy it for me. They would often say, “Sorry son, not today.” I would ask, “Why?” Sometimes the answer would be, “Because I said so.” I hated that answer as a kid (but I love it as a parent).

Here's another answer I hated: “It costs too much.” It seemed like every time I wanted something it “costs” too much.

Two scoops of ice cream instead of one – costs too much.

My own hamburger at Steak ‘n Shake instead of sharing with my sister – costs too much.

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Designer jeans for only \$100 – costs too much.

Mattel Intellivision (I wanted it so bad) – costs too much.

I remember thinking: “When I get older and have lots of money, I am going to get what I want no matter what it costs. Cost is not going to stop me from happiness. I will pay any price. Cost is not going to keep me from doing what I want.”

Ice cream, blue jeans, video games, and everything else we want has a cost. That’s the economics of life.

Everything has a cost. And, when we want something badly, we will often pay a very steep price. I am amazed at the cost some people are willing to pay for immediate happiness or pleasure.

## **“COURAGE” Level Questions**

**C1:** What was the response of your parents or guardians when you asked for a toy you wanted? Which response was the most disappointing?

**C2:** Describe a time you paid way too much for something. What were the ultimate results and emotions?

**C3:** Describe a time when you went against God’s law. What was the price you paid?

## “STRENGTH” Level Questions

**Exercise #1:** The Garden of Eden was a perfect place. Read and answer the following.

### Genesis 2:15–16 (ESV)

**S1:** From these verses, what did Adam enjoy?

**S2:** What are the benefits of relationships?

**Exercise #2:** The *blessings* of a relationship with God are directly linked to the *responsibilities* of a relationship with God. Read and answer the following.

### Genesis 2:17 (ESV)

**S3:** From this verse, what did God give Adam?

**Exercise #2:** On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very well* and 4 being *not very well*, rate your relationship with God. Write out a plan to improve.

**Exercise #3:** Read and answer the following.

**Genesis 2:20–25 (ESV)**

**S4:** What do you learn from these verses?

**S5:** What do you imagine a life without guilt or shame would be like?

**Exercise #4:** On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very high* and 4 being *not very high*, rate the guilt/shame in your life. Write out a plan to improve.

## **“ENDURANCE” Level Questions**

**Exercise #1:** Life was good for Adam in the Garden. He lived in the perfect place, had the perfect job, an awesome boss, and the closest thing to a perfect wife any man ever had. Read and answer the following.

### **Genesis 3:1–6 (ESV)**

**E1:** What was the turning point of the story?

**E2:** Describe a time in your life when you disobeyed God. What was the cost?

**Exercise #2:** For most people, the highest cost of sin is not physical, but emotional. Read and answer the following.

## **Genesis 3:7 (ESV)**

**E3:** From this verse, what was the cost of disobedience?

**E4:** Describe a time in your life when you felt shame. What thoughts went through your mind?

**Exercise #3:** Sin cost Adam intimacy with God. Read and answer the following.

**Genesis 3:8–12 (ESV)**

**Genesis 3:8–12 (ESV)**

**E5:** What are three things that happened because Adam and Eve disobeyed God?

**Exercise #4:** On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very well* and 4 being *not very well*, rate your level of obedience to God. Write out a plan to improve.